

United States Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service

Caribbean Area Field Office (641)

654 Avenida Munoz Rivera IMB Bldg, Suite 702 San Juan, PR 00918-4125

Phone: 787-766-5586 Fax: 787-766-5076 Dear Retailer:

Thank you for your interest in the Food Stamp Program!

To participate, you must review the enclosed materials and submit a complete application form, including all required documentation. Incomplete applications will be returned and will delay your participation in the Food Stamp Program.

To complete your application, you must:

- Meet the basic eligibility criteria (refer to *Retail Store Eligibility* sheet),
- Completely fill out an application form, and
- Provide the required documentation (refer to *Application Checklist*).

Your field office has 45 days to approve or deny your application, once your application is complete. As part of the approval process, you may be required to review training materials provided by your field office. You cannot accept Food Stamp benefits until your store has been approved under your ownership.

As part of the approval process, a USDA representative or private contractor may visit your store to make sure the store is eligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program. The USDA representative or contractor should present photo identification and will look around your store. Private contractors must ask for written consent before looking at your store. The representative or contractor may take pictures, sketch the layout of the store, and look at your inventory. If your application is denied because your store does not meet the eligibility criteria, you must wait six months before you can submit a new application.

Follow the instructions on the next page to turn in your application to your field office. If you have any questions, please contact us or get more information from the USDA website at <a href="https://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp">www.fns.usda.gov/fsp</a> by clicking on "Retailers."

We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Angel D. Morales

Supervisor FSP / WIC Operations Unit

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political belief or disability. To file a complaint of Discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20250-9410

Attach a map or directions from nearest intersection to locate your store.

Please send your completed application and supporting documents to the following address:

USDA Food and Nutrition Service Caribbean Area Office 654 Avenida Muñoz Rivera Suite 702 San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-4125

If you have any questions regarding your application, please contact us at (787) 766-5321 / 766-5684